

Constitution, held that each major form of polity is animated by a distinct spirit, which he called, in the title of his classic work, "The Spirit of the Laws." In a monarchy, he said, the dominant spirit is honor; in a despotism, it is fear, and in a republic the spirit must be virtue.

The founding fathers of our nation agreed. Our first three presidents, Washington, Jefferson, and John Adams, spoke eloquently of the necessity for civic virtue to undergird the health of our republic. Our fourth president, James Madison, wrote to the same effect: "To suppose any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Civic virtue, of course, is not a substitute for law. In a complex society such as ours, many laws are needed to coordinate social relationships. We justly pride ourselves in having a government of laws that prevents tyranny and capriciousness. But it is possible, in the absence of virtue, to put too much stock on law. Alexis de Tocqueville, a keen observer of the American scene, said that the Europeans of his day gave too much emphasis to laws and too little to mores. In the United States, he contended, customs and religious beliefs pervaded social life so thoroughly that the laws could be less onerous.

Where virtue prevails, laws will be framed with a view to the common good, not private self-interest. The laws, perceived as agreeing with the norms of justice, will carry moral authority. A virtuous people will feel obliged in conscience to obey them. But if laws are framed to satisfy the interests of particular groups, they will lose their moral authority, and the citizens will feel entitled to disobey, provided they do not get caught. Vice and criminality will proliferate.

Civilization depends on habits of the heart. It requires citizens who can trust one another to be honest, considerate, and truthful. When trust evaporates, the law has to assume a coercive function, compelling people to obey against their will. Elaborate mechanisms of surveillance, prosecution, and punishment must be erected. An army of auditors, detectives, police, attorneys, trial judges, and prison guards strives in vain to secure the order that responsible freedom would achieve. Free society gradually transforms itself into a police state.

In our litigious society, thirst for gain almost eclipses the passion for justice. Friends and family members readily take each other to court. Malpractice suits and the cost of insurance are forcing doctors and other professionals to abandon their practice. The courts are congested with heavy backlogs. We build more and larger prisons, which prove only to be schools of crime.

As men and women of the law, you know well that virtue cannot be legislated. But your concern for the law itself must give you a sense of the importance of moral convictions and moral training for the health of our society.

In our American tradition, great reliance has been placed on private institutions that directly inculcate virtue. Families, schools, and churches are among the primary agents for transmitting sound moral values.

The family, as the nucleus where life is born and where coming generations are formed, is today under severe pressure. It needs to be protected so that children can be raised in a stable and healthy environment. Broken homes and dysfunctional families are breeding-grounds of crime.

Schools extend the pedagogical functions of the family. To the degree that public education fails to instill moral convictions and behavior, this task will fall more heavily on private institutions, especially those conducted under religious auspices. Schools of

this character fill the void left by value-free institutions that limit themselves to factual information and technical skills.

Religious institutions are of inestimable importance for transmitting moral probity. Perceiving this, John Adams declared: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." George Washington said much the same: "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail to the exclusion of religious principle." The government cannot establish in this country any given religion, but it can protect and support religion as an aid to civic virtue.

Law and spirit belong together. They are as inseparable as body and soul. Law, at least civil law, is a human achievement, but the spirit, if it is to be upright, depends chiefly upon the grace of God, who can transform our hearts and fill them with his love. May God forgive us for having so often tried to do without him! In prayer and worship we beseech him to impart a generous measure of his Spirit on our nation, its governors, and those who frame, interpret, and apply its laws.

HONORING REVEREND ROGER TOBIN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Roger Tobin of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, in my Congressional District, on the 25th Anniversary of his ordination.

Reverend Tobin is an outstanding member of the South Florida community who enlightens and inspires all who are blessed to know him. Through his dynamic leadership during the last 17 years at St. Thomas, Reverend Tobin has seen both the church and the school double in size, a true testament to his unwavering dedication to his church community. Not only is Reverend Tobin striving to improve the physical plant at St. Thomas through a major reconstruction project, but he is also striving to deepen his own intellectual and spiritual life through a personal retreat.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Tobin on 25 years of tireless service to the Episcopal Church. Thank you Reverend, and may God continue to bless you, your lovely wife, Janice, and your sons, Jonathan and Nathaniel as you continue your mission.

H.R. 3407 AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies go out to the Californians who are suffering in the devastating wake of the fires currently raging in the Southern part of my home state. I want to be clear: I unequivocally support the federal disaster assistance that California and Californians will require to rebuild in the aftermath of the tragic fires. That is why I

am an original cosponsor of H.R. 3407, the California Funding for Immediate Relief of Wildfire Emergencies Act, which provides an emergency appropriation to FEMA of \$500 million for disaster relief associated with the fires.

What I am opposed to, however, is the shameful, politically motivated decision to include the \$500 million in FEMA funding in a bill that deals with the most serious question of war. Mr. Speaker, I cannot, and will not vote for almost \$87 billion to fund the Bush Administration's continuing war in Iraq, and just as I voted against the original Supplemental Appropriations bill, I will vote against this conference report.

HONORING ROCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the Rochester General Hospital located in Rochester, New York, a 526-bed Center of Excellence within the boundaries of the 28th Congressional District of New York. The hospital, which is home to the Rochester Heart Institute, is New York's fourth largest cardiac center, providing complete diagnostic services, medical, invasive, and non-invasive treatment, three progressive levels of cardiac rehabilitation and state-of-the-art cardiothoracic surgery.

This year, the century-old teaching hospital has been named a 2003 Solucient 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospital. Although the hospital has received this designation three previous times, the 2003 distinction is especially meaningful, as it is one of only two hospitals in New York State so distinguished.

The fifth annual study, Solucient 100 Top Hospitals Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success—2003, used publicly available data, statistically adjusted for illness levels, to track performance in seven key cardiology/cardiac surgery areas. Specifically, hospitals that cared for at least 20 cases in each of the four categories of acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), congestive heart failure, angioplasty (PTCA) and coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) were rated by the seven following indicators: procedure volume, risk-adjusted medical mortality, risk-adjusted surgical mortality, risk-adjusted complications index, percentage of CABG patients with internal mammary artery use, severity-adjusted average length of stay, and wage and severity-adjusted average cost.

Rochester General Hospital's designation as one of America's Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals is particularly important to health care consumers. The aforementioned study concluded that facilities found worthy of this distinction consistently outperform their peers, especially in terms of mortality and complication rates. This specific achievement is evidence that the skilled performance and excellent outcomes in cardiovascular services at Rochester General Hospital of Rochester, New York have propelled the hospital to the top one per cent of acute-care hospitals in the United States of America.

It is indeed my great privilege, as the elected Representative of the 28th Congressional